

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 IO-14 OMB-01

SCA-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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DRAFTED BY EUR/GRK:JGDAY:MP

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EUR/P MILAN JERABEK

NEA/P RICHARD THURMOND

----- 052320

P R 062141Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ARAB TERRORISTS

REF;

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING
RELATING TO GOG'S DEPORTATION OF ARAB TERRORISTS TO LIBYA:

Q. PAUL, HAVE YOU GOT ANY COMMENT ON THE GREEK RELEASE OF
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THE TWO PALESTINIANS WHO SHOT UP THE AIRCRAFT LAST

AUGUST?

A. YES. I DO HAVE A STATEMENT WHICH REFLECTS OUR DIS-
APPOINTMENT. WE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE DECISION OF
THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO DEPORT THE TWO BLACK SEPTEMBER
TERRORISTS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE AT THE
ATHENS AIRPORT. AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE MOST
EFFECTIVE WAY TO COUNTER TERRORISM IS TO APPREHEND AND
APPROPRIATELY PUNISH THE PERPETRATORS. DEPORTING INDI-
VIDUALS CONVICTED OF MURDERING INNOCENT PEOPLE IS NOT THE
ANSWER TO DETERRING FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THAT
IS THE END OF MY STATEMENT.

Q. WAS THERE ANY CONTACT, PAUL, WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
BEFORE THEY DECIDED TO TAKE THIS ACTION?

A. WELL, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN
FULLY AWARE OF OUR POSITION AS I JUST DESCRIBED IT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHEN THEY WERE ACTUALLY
DEPORTED AND WHERE THEY HAVE GONE?

A. I HAVE ONLY SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS ON THAT. I DON'T
THINK THAT WE HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION.

Q. WHEN WAS THIS MASSACRE?

A. THIS WAS, AS I RECOLLECT, LAST AUGUST IN ATHENS.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE A DATE HERE?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE DATE HERE. LET'S SEE. LAST AUGUST.
THERE WERE TWO PALESTINIANS INVOLVED. THEY WERE CONVICTED
OF KILLING FIVE PEOPLE, INCLUDING FOUR AMERICANS AT
THE ATHENS AIRPORT.

Q. THEY WERE TRIED, WEREN'T THEY?

A. THEY WERE TRIED, YES.

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Q. AND SENTENCED TO WHAT?

A. THEY WERE TRIED, CONVICTED, I BELIEVE ORIGINALLY
--I BETTER GO ON BACKGROUND HERE--I BELIEVE THEY WERE
ORIGINALLY CONVICTED AND GIVEN DEATH SENTENCES, WHICH WERE
IN TURN COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US HOW LONG PALAVER HAS BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN ATHENS AND WASHINGTON ON THIS? THAT IS, WHEN THEY MIGHT HAVE INFORMED US OF THEIR DECISION TO DEPORT THESE TWO?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT SPECIFICALLY.

Q. WHEN DID YOU KNOW--YOU WERE INFORMED?

A. ON BACKGROUND, PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP--I BELIEVE THAT THIS HAS BEEN RUMORED OR TALKED ABOUT FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. BUT IN TERMS OF EXACTLY WHEN AND IF IN FACT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY INFORMED US OF THEIR DECISION, I AM NOT SURE. RUSH

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